

State of North Carolina



MICHAEL F. EASLEY
GOVERNOR

CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK

2007

BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defects are the most frequently occurring birth defect and the leading cause of birth defect related deaths worldwide; and

WHEREAS, over a million families across America are facing the challenges and hardships of raising children with Congenital Heart Defects; and

WHEREAS, every year 40,000 babies are born in the United States with Congenital Heart Defects; and

WHEREAS, some Congenital Heart Defects are not diagnosed until months or years after birth; and

WHEREAS, undiagnosed Congenital Heart conditions cause many cases of sudden cardiac death in young athletes; and

WHEREAS, despite these statistics, newborns and young athletes are not routinely screened for Congenital Heart Defects; and

WHEREAS, a disproportionately small amount of funding is available for Congenital Heart Defect research and support; and

WHEREAS, Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week provides an opportunity for families whose lives have been affected to celebrate life and to remember loved ones lost, to honor dedicated health professionals, and to meet others and know they are not alone; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of Congenital Heart Defect Awareness Week will also provide the opportunity to share experience and information with the public and the media to raise public awareness about Congenital Heart Defects;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, MICHAEL F. EASLEY, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim February 7-14, 2007, as **"CONGENITAL HEART DEFECT AWARENESS WEEK"** in North Carolina and urge our citizens to commend this observance.



Mike Easley
MICHAEL F. EASLEY

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Raleigh, North Carolina, this twenty-third day of January in the year of our Lord two thousand and seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-first.